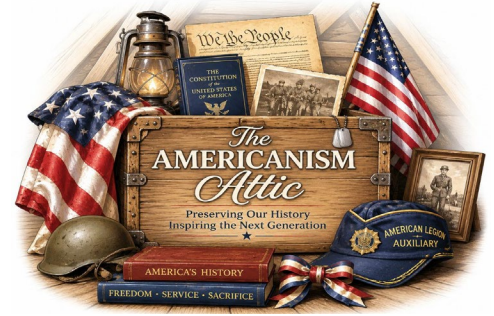


American Legion Department of Arizona
Americanism Attic
Preserving Our History · Inspiring Our Next Generation
October 2026 | Bulletin



The "BER" months are officially here! September, October, November, and December offer fantastic opportunities to celebrate, educate, remember, and serve.

One of the best ways to build a successful Americanism program is to plan ahead. Don't wait until an observance appears on the calendar—look at what your Unit, Post Family, and community already have planned and ask: “How can we add a little Americanism?” Sometimes it only takes adding a small activity, sharing a piece of history, involving a veteran, or engaging local youth.

Here is a look at the upcoming observances for the “BER” months:

OCTOBER — CELEBRATE & ENGAGE

- **October 13** – U.S. Navy 251st Birthday: Invite a Navy veteran to share memories, create a display, share history on social media, or ask a veteran to explain to youth what the Navy does.
- **October 26** – National Day of the Deployed: Recognize those serving away from home and their families through cards, care packages, or a recognition display.
- **October 31** – Put Americanism in Halloween: Add red, white, and blue stickers or patriotic bookmarks to treat bags, hand out patriotic coloring sheets, or display small flags.

NOVEMBER — EDUCATE, HONOR & GIVE THANKS

- **November 3** – Election Day: Encourage civic participation and nonpartisan education.
- **November 10** – Dual Birthdays: Celebrate the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday and the American Legion Auxiliary Birthday!
- **November 11** – Veterans Day: Start contacting schools, Scout troops, and youth groups now to plan youth engagement.
- **November 26** – Thanksgiving: Host a “Thankful for Our Veterans” activity, support veterans who may be alone, or include veterans in community holiday projects.

DECEMBER — REMEMBER, CELEBRATE & SERVE

- **December 7** – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: Honor the day of remembrance (consider visiting the USS Arizona Memorial at the Gardens at Salt River).
- **December 19** – Wreaths Across America: Get involved early to help remember and honor veterans in local ceremonies.
- **December 20** – U.S. Space Force Birthday: Highlight our newest military service branch to educate youth about modern service.

- **Christmas Festivities:** Incorporate Americanism into existing holiday parties with patriotic ornament-making tables, card-writing stations for veterans, or special recognition for attending veterans.

Let's start planning today to make these upcoming months impactful for our community and our veterans!

IT'S HERE!!!

2026 Americanism Essay Contest Title: ***"How can you be a beacon of light for our veterans?"***

It is time to begin engaging and contacting local schools and teachers.

Think about what tools or materials you need. Options may include a formal letter to school administrators or promotional posters for teachers to display to alert students. If you plan to visit schools in person, now is the time to schedule those appointments.

Additionally, we are introducing the \$200 Wish List this year. More information will be provided in the coming months.

Please note that the deadline for submissions to the Department Americanism Chair is March 13, 2027 (via electronic submission or postmark). Please use the link for entry forms and further details: [Americanism Committee](#)

What is your Unit doing to inspire Americanism?

Unit 86 Heber – Overgaard
Honored the 25th Anniversary of Patriot's Day (9/11) with a bulletin board at Mountain Meadows Elementary School!
Great job Unit 86!
See Ring Your Bell on Facebook for more info



Resources for your use:

American Legion website:
legion.org

AL Auxiliary website:
alaforveterans.org

Wreaths Across America:
wreathsacrossamerica.org

Military Branches
Information:
www.usa.gov

LOOKING AHEAD... Americanism doesn't have to be its own event! Add Americanism to an event you are already having! It all counts! Share your ideas, they might inspire another Unit.

It's never a bad idea to start looking ahead – don't wait; don't hesitate! Look at least three months ahead – start planning now. As October begins, it may be too late to plan for a separate event but incorporate Americanism into an already planned event, and then look at November and December. And while you're planning December...Start peeking at January! A new year means new opportunities to Honor · Educate · Serve · Inspire

**In unity for God and Country,
Service, Not Self**

Amber Sanchez

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